



Alenco Communications, Inc.

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VIA ELECTRONIC COMMENT FILING SYSTEM (ECFS)

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Suite TW-325
Washington, DC 20554

RE: WC Docket No. 10-90 – Connect America Fund – Expression of Interest for Rate-of-Return Rural Broadband Experiment

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Alenco Communications, Inc. (ACI) hereby submits this non-binding expression of interest to conduct a rural broadband experiment in five of its ten exchanges - the exchanges of Dolores, Maryneal, McCaulley, Modeana and Sylvester. These exchanges are very remote and rural.

Background

ACI is a rate-of-return incumbent local exchange carrier that provides local exchange service, long distance, high-speed internet with speeds up to 18Mbps in several exchanges. ACI provides services to a total of ten exchanges: three in west Texas, three in central Texas and four in south Texas near the Mexico border. Our service area includes 1,131 route miles in 4,835 square miles with 60 miles along the Mexico border. We have few anchor institutions in our rural service area however those anchor institutions are currently provided access to high-speed broadband service. Today ACI provides high-speed broadband services to border patrol facilities. The majority of our remaining customers without reliable broadband service are residential, farmers, ranchers, dairy farmers, and oil and gas operations. ACI has been working diligently to deploy additional fiber in its network with the intent of offering higher speeds and IP based services. Today we utilize some fixed wireless facilities however this technology is not as reliable and as maintenance free as fiber would be for these extremely remote rocky areas of Texas. In fact, voice wireless service is not available in much of the south Texas area. The FCC's broadband experiment provides ACI with the ability to obtain needed support to accelerate its construction plans for these five exchanges.

Proposal

ACI seeks Connect America support to deploy additional fiber in its network to provide reliable broadband, voice, and other IP based services to 447 customers in five of its ten exchanges.

Today the majority of these customers have access to broadband service that is less than 1Mbps. If our request is approved, we would be able to offer broadband services from 3Mbps to 20Mbps, video, voice, and other IP based services. The following information outlines the required investment by exchange.

Dolores exchange:

Approximately 24 miles of fiber construction is required to provide quality levels of broadband service to 144 customers. The fiber costs are approximately \$860,000 with an electronics investment of \$49,000.

Maryneal exchange:

Approximately 77 miles of fiber construction is required to provide 46 customers high-speed broadband services. Fiber costs are approximately \$3.9Million while additional electronics investment is \$16,500.

McCaulley exchange:

Approximately 13 miles of fiber construction is required in the McCaulley exchange to provide 31 customers access to high-speed broadband services. Fiber costs are approximately \$486,000 and the electronics investment is \$11,500.

Modeana exchange:

Approximately 26 miles of fiber construction is needed to provide reliable high-speed broadband services to 191 customers. Fiber costs are approximately \$770,000 while investment in electronics is \$65,900.

Sylvester exchange:

Approximately 39 miles of fiber construction is required to provide reliable high-speed broadband services to 35 customers. Fiber investment is estimated to be \$1.4Million and investment in electronics is \$309,000.

All of these exchanges are very remote and have a rocky terrain. Without the additional Connect America Fund support, ACI may not be able to offer reliable broadband services to these customers for several years.

ACI appreciates the opportunity to provide this non-binding expression of interest. If you have any questions, please give me a call.

Sincerely,



Ray Bussell

General Manager

Alenco Communications, Inc.

817 447 0127